



AV News Update

Specially prepared for FAAS Team Members by FAA Aviation News

July 2008

EMERGENCY AD ISSUED ON ECLIPSE 500 AIRCRAFT

On June 12, 2008, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued an emergency Airworthiness Directive (AD) on all Eclipse 500 aircraft in response to an urgent recommendation from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). The recommendation stemmed from a June 5, 2008, incident where an Eclipse 500 airplane, on approach to Chicago Midway Airport, experienced a failure that resulted in uncontrollable maximum power thrust from its two Pratt and Whitney Canada PW610F turbofan engines. After referencing the emergency procedures in the airplane's quick reference handbook, the pilots shut down one of the engines. However, following the shutdown of the engine, the other engine rolled back to idle power and continued to be unresponsive to the throttle. The pilots declared an emergency, were cleared to land on any runway, and were able to land the plane without injury to the pilots or passengers.

The AD requires new emergency and normal procedures to be inserted into the Aircraft Flight Manual (AFM) and for a pilot evaluation of the throttles with repair or replacement as necessary. The AD is effective immediately. For more information: http://rgl.faa.gov/Regulatory_and_Guidance_Library/rgAD.nsf/0/CE4F90742D2987B8625746700025E60?OpenDocument

FAA ISSUES AD ON MANY BEECHCRAFT BONANZA, BARON, AND SKIPPER AIRCRAFT

The FAA adopted a new Airworthiness Directive (AD) for certain Hawker Beechcraft Corporation F33 series and Models G33, V35B, A36, A36TC, B36TC, 95-B55, D55, E55, A56TC, 58, 58P, 58TC, G58, and 77 airplanes. The AD requires certain circuit breaker toggle switches be replaced with improved design circuit breaker toggle switches. This AD results from reports of certain circuit breaker toggle switches overheating. The FAA issued this AD to prevent failure of the circuit breaker toggle switch, which could result in smoke in the cockpit and the inability to turn off the switch.

The AD becomes effective on August 6, 2008. The AD is available at: http://rgl.faa.gov/Regulatory_and_Guidance_Library/rgAD.nsf/0/DEE0757C20255E1A8625747A004CE45F?OpenDocument

FATIGUE MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

The FAA's first Aviation Fatigue Management Symposium produced agreement on two major points: 1) As in other modes of transportation, fatigue can be a genuine factor affecting aviation operations, and 2) now is the time to do something about it.

The symposium, which ran from June 17 through 19, brought together 325 experts from industry, government, and academia to share the most current information on fatigue and discuss possible fatigue management strategies and best practices. The participants looked at issues affecting flight and cabin crews, air traffic controllers, technicians, mechanics, dispatchers, and ramp workers.

The conference attendees generally agreed that fatigue mitigation must be based on scientific principles developed through enhanced data collection. They also emphasized the necessity for government and industry to develop a culture that does not penalize employees who excuse themselves from duty due to fatigue. The conferees recognized that incorporating fatigue risk management systems into everyday operations is the ultimate goal, but doing so will take innovation in addressing a myriad of regulatory issues.

The full statement can be found at: http://www.faa.gov/news/press_releases/news_story.cfm?newsId=10246

FAA UPDATES HEMS FACT SHEET

On June 30, 2008, the FAA updated its Fact Sheet covering Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) in light of recent accidents. The FAA has been, and continues to be, committed to improving the safety of these operations. There have been several fatal HEMS accidents in 2008. The most recent collision of two HEMS helicopters near a hospital in Flagstaff, Arizona, on June 29, has focused public attention on the demanding operational environment of these aircraft.

The Fact Sheet covers some background on the industry, past FAA actions to improve safety, and future FAA initiatives. The Fact Sheet can be found at: http://www.faa.gov/news/fact_sheets/news_story.cfm?newsId=6763

Feedback regarding the AV News Update may be directed to AviationNews@faa.gov. The FAA Aviation News magazine is available online at: www.faa.gov/news/aviation_news/.

